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PEACE NEWS

The International Pacifist Weekly

No. 873

March 20 1953

Science for Peace Conference

PUBLIC DISGUST CAN STOP WAR

"Criminal lunatics in office"

— DR. ALEX COMFORT

SCIENTISTS should make a declaration that they would not work on weapons of destruction in any circumstances," said Dr. Furth at the Science for Peace A.G.M. at Holborn Hall, on Saturday, March 14.

The public consider scientists keen to put their knowledge to the use of national defence which involves developing weapons of aggression. It is in the hands of humanity to make war or peace. If no one wants to make war, there will be no war. If the public is made aware of the dangers of atomic war and will do its utmost to prevent it, all governments will have to settle their problems without war."

Criminal lunacy

Dr. Alex Comfort pointed out that abnormal behaviour and spy-mania was not peculiar to one country.

"When a criminal lunatic escapes and kills a child, the country is in an uproar. Yet we tolerate in office people responsible for Hiroshima who still boast about atomic bombs.

"Political policies today are as much a matter of mental disorder as wickedness.

NATO's arms bill:

£9 per head for every man, woman and child in the world.
(See "Helping Neighbours"—page 2)

When political leaders are incompetent and probably insane, we should take a stronger lead."

Disgusted with militarism

Earlier, Professor Born said: "I cannot speak to anyone about war or militarism without getting angry, I am so disgusted with them."

Progress came only when people felt something should not continue, but most people enjoyed war. "Scientists should spread disgust with misuse of science for war."

Dr. A. H. Gordon, Secretary of Science for Peace, agreed that there was a breaking point beyond which people were not prepared to go.

"Public disgust leads to new pathways, but the public are being conditioned to make no protest at all. They don't realize the horror of the major part of our national economy being used for war."

Dr. H. H. Hopkins quoted a railway passenger who, hearing the first atom bomb was dropped, said, "Scientists! I'd drown the bloody lot!" That indicated the public attitude to war.

Before we decide to retain atomic bombs as a deterrent, said Dr. Rowsell, scientists should explain what atomic war on London would mean. Brown paper and wet towels would be no use. They should explain, too, what we were doing to Koreans with napalm.

Government by deceit

"Government by consent has been overtaken by government by deceit," declared Dr. Geffries. "The first step to prevent world war is to stop the Korean war." Quoting wide discrepancies between estimates of the Red Army, he alleged that the Government White Paper on the causes of the Korean war had deceived MPs and the public, as was shown by comparison with the UN publication.

After one speaker claimed scientists did not know what their work was used for, Dr. Pirie said, "See who's paying for it, then you'll know whether it's intended for biological warfare."

Better canon fodder

A cancer research worker, Mr. Davis, started a campaign against science fiction American comics and pseudo-American comics which, with their ideas of super-destroyers and sinister scientists, helped to make children better canon-fodder.

The indiscriminate nature of modern weapons has led us to regard people as machines and not human individuals, said Mr. S. J. Hilton. "Millions are at war today and we should be as concerned about them being used on Koreans as if it were our relatives. We must create such a clamour that science will be used rightly."

Mr. Davis stressed that danger had grown in the past twelve months. "The

sible by any country if it suits its policy and the threat of war does not come only from one side."

A 1952 Nobel Laureate, Dr. R. L. M. Syng, F.R.S., in his opening address said, "The main applications of the advance in pure science have been towards the technology of war in recent years. Governments, to a great extent, are directing the power of applied science towards wasteful, unproductive objects that could bring about destruction on an unprecedented scale."

"Scientists must come to feel much more responsibility for what facts are ascertained, that is, for the direction taken by the progress of science. To evade responsibility meant saying, 'I am willing to be as dumb as other citizens while public affairs are mismanaged, even when it concerns matters of which I have special knowledge.'

Secret expenditure

"Very serious pressure exists which prevents public comment by many of those best able to judge (for example, civil servants) when affairs are being grossly mismanaged.

"One wonders how many appropriations of public funds comparable to the ground-nut scheme are kept dark as a result of the Official Secrets Act, or of the fear of loss of employment.

They had not because of the threat of war and the use of weapons with a new order of destructiveness. Whoever used them would "jeopardize the future of the human race for generations to come."

"The most important activity for us is to stop existing wars and prevent future wars by agreement between the nations," he declared.

Among the resolutions passed by the Conference was one deplored "the pressure on men and women who have recently graduated from university to undertake research at military research establishments or within the universities under schemes financed by such establishments."

Not opposed to Labour principles

A proposal made by the Queen Mary College Science for Peace Society that there should be a category of conscientious objectors on scientific grounds was withdrawn for further consideration.

A resolution expressing profound regret that the Labour Party had proscribed various professional organisations working for peace, including "Science for Peace," was carried; the Conference could not believe that either its aims or its activities were in "any way opposed to the principles or aims of the Labour Party."

Professor F. H. Gregory, proposing this motion, said that he had been a member of the Labour Party for many years, but it seemed to him that it was doing its best to muzzle criticism from its own members on matters of importance.

A resolution was also carried calling upon the Government to initiate a new approach to the USA and the USSR in an effort to secure agreement on the international control of atomic energy.

'It can be Peace' poster march in London tomorrow

ALL Peace News readers are invited to join in a poster parade through the West End of London tomorrow (Saturday) morning in support of next week's big Central Hall meeting.

Volunteers to carry posters or distribute leaflets should be at Dick Sheppard House, 6 Endsleigh Street, Euston, W.C.1 at 10.30 a.m.

Central Hall, Westminster FRIDAY MARCH 27, at 7.30 p.m.

IT CAN BE PEACE

CECILY COOK, O.B.E.
(Gen. Sec. Women's Co-operative Guild)

H. W. FRANKLIN
(Nat. Union of Railways)

VICTOR YATES, M.P.
(Chairman: SYBIL MORRISON)

Buffet and Bookstall 6.30 p.m. Admission free. Name reserved seats 2s. 6d. Apply to the organisers:

PEACE PLEDGE UNION, 6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1

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NEIGHBOURLY AID

Work Camps and Work Projects number



Above: The demonstrators lined up at the barrier near the Ministry of Supply's Microbiological Research Establishment at Porton. Below: Donald Dickenson, J.P., speaking in Salisbury Market Square. Several hundred people listened attentively to the case for non-violence.



"Germ factory" road barred to pacifists

SECURITY OFFICERS MAKE FILM
PEACE NEWS REPORTER

A NEW barbed-wire and wood barrier blocked the road when members of the Non-violent Resistance Group and pacifists from the South of England attempted to march to the Ministry of Supply's Microbiological Research Establishment at Porton, near Salisbury, last Saturday.

The 27 demonstrators, who carried posters, had come to protest at the secrecy surrounding the establishment. They were refused permission to go any further or to enter into conversation with any of the people on the other side.

One of the group, Tom Wardle, on being invited by the leader to speak, leaped onto a wall at the side of the road and addressed men and women on both sides of the barrier: security officers, police, soldiers, villagers and local workers. "We believe in putting our trust, not in force, but in the power of love as preached by Jesus and St. Francis, and practiced by men like Patrick Duncan, Mahatma Gandhi and Chief Luthuli in Africa today."

The demonstration was filmed by security officers.

March through the villages

After distributing leaflets in the area and with their numbers increased by four Birmingham pacifists, the poster parade moved off across country through several neighbouring villages back to a waiting coach.

The group then left for Salisbury where another march took place, this time through the centre of the town which was thronged with market-day shoppers and soldiers from the nearby camps. Everybody stopped to stare. Faces gazed from shops and houses bordering the street.

Towards four o'clock, after an hour's walk, the party arrived at the market square where preparations had been made for a public meeting.

During the week Salisbury pacifists had distributed nearly five thousand leaflets setting out the aims of the group and the Salisbury Times had printed most of the leaflet and the day's programme.

When the rostrum was set up several hundred people had already gathered in the square.

The floods showed the way

Mr. Donald Dickenson, a Salisbury magistrate, opened the meeting. "I speak as a Quaker," he said. "I believe in the Gospel of Christ and the testimony of George Fox. I seek to live in that power which takes away the occasion of all wars, for it cannot be the will of God that we should kill our fellow men."

"We may not like the ideas of the Russians," he continued, "but you cannot kill an idea with bombs, battleships and bayonets. Only with a better idea can you drive an idea out."

There were loud cries of "Hear, hear" when he referred to our act of giving food and clothing to Holland at the time of the floods and the equally fine action

★ Continued back page

PEACE NEWS

3 Blackstock Road, London, N.4
STAmford Hill 2262 (three lines)

20th March, 1953

HELPING NEIGHBOURS

THIS issue of Peace News reports many encouraging instances of the development of a spirit of neighbourliness by means of disinterested assistance given in different places in the world.

While it was being prepared the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation issued figures for "defence" expenditure for the year 1952-3.

There are fourteen countries concerned but as Iceland has no military budget (she merely provides sites for U.S. bases), the figures are given for the remaining thirteen.

The total is the stupendous sum of £22,666,000,000. About £9 per head for every man, woman and child in the world. It does not include the amount spent by the U.S. on "Mutual Security" Assistance.

We suggest, not only to our readers but also to the Foreign Offices of the Western powers, that these two sets of facts are worth contemplating: the fund of goodwill that has been established by the very amateur pilot schemes for a "war on want" waged with meagre resources which we report; and the extension of suspicion, fear and insecurity that has developed along with the expenditure of the monstrous sum now devoted to military defence.



Let us suppose that in 1949-50 Western statesmen could have foreseen that three years later they would, somehow or other, be making available another £16,018 million for arms.

Also let us suppose that they had been able to ask themselves:

Making these resources available, how can we best utilise them for the achievement of peace in the world?

If they were realistic people they would allow for the obvious fact that swollen armaments have never yet averted war; they might also have speculated on alternative measures.

Suppose they had said:

Peace is indivisible, and that means that positive and creative good neighbourliness should be worldwide.

Poverty still abounds in the world; about two thirds of the world's population is pitifully under-nourished, badly housed, and largely illiterate and untaught.

If we can deal with it, it is conceivable that we shall make friends of our neighbours wherever we bring our help; we shall learn to know them better and they will have reason to look to us with respect rather than fear.

It may add to our security in the world and to the sense of security of the other peoples. It is worth trying.

Suppose it had been tried. Suppose they had said:

Now let us look at Korea for a start. The Japanese have now departed after years of domination of Korea for imperialistic ends. They have taken away the technical ability and the assistance in development the control of which they kept so rigidly in their own hands. The Koreans will be in need of help.

We will take it to them, not as imperialists but as neighbours. We are going to make available a further £16,000m. per annum from which we need not look for profit.

We can make them prosperous people. The Koreans have an early claim on us because their economy has been badly dislocated as a result of the war; but having made provision for their development we will set about offering similar neighbourly help to all the peoples on the globe who need it.

If that attitude had been taken who can say what would have been the sequel? Certainly the history of the past three years would have been very different; it is moderately certain that the 38th parallel would have ceased to have any very great political importance, and it is at least possible that instead of being one of the world's worst danger-points today Korea might have been a centre of goodwill, pointing the way to the creation of other such centres.

We suggest that the force that is required to build peace and goodwill in the world, whether it is recruited by UN, the Western powers, or even by one of those powers (if one could be found with the initiative and imagination to undertake it), is a force composed of young men and women to do on a large scale the things the people whose activities we describe this week have contrived to do on a small scale.

There would be no need for conscription for such a force. Recruits in plenty would respond to a recruiting appeal which urged: "Join this army and build a world."

This sum has to be measured against the approximate figure of £2 15s. (£6,618,000,000) in 1952-53.

Playing with fire

THE British, American and French High Commissioners have addressed strong notes to their Russian colleagues in connection with the shooting down of British and American planes over Germany.

Having made their protests, it is difficult to see what else they can do if the Soviet Union does not comply with their demands.

A few years ago the incident might well have resulted in an ultimatum which, by this time, would have led to war. The whole incident at least shows that though both sides may not hesitate to take provocative action, neither side desires to precipitate a world conflict.

Both sides are gambling upon how far they can go without recourse to actual war—a dangerous game.

Whatever may be the actual facts which resulted in the shooting down of the American fighter and the British bomber, the incidents illustrate the extreme tension which exists in divided Germany.

The air corridors, never more than 20 miles wide, are not visibly marked.

When the Americans proclaim their desire to liberate people in Soviet controlled territory, provide money for dropping agents and talk about the usefulness of aerial reconnaissance, it is no wonder that the Russians are suspicious of the intentions of any aircraft that may get even slightly off the recognised course.

We would have thought that the RAF could have found better routes for training flights than those which take machines unnecessarily into danger zones.

Both sides must bear some share of the blame for these unfortunate incidents.

Remove the tensions

The outstanding lesson is the need for removing the tensions out of which such incidents spring.

If British and American policy leads to the continuation and, indeed, the intensification of the division of Germany; if Berlin is allowed to remain an island marooned in the Eastern Zone except for three narrow air corridors, such incidents will always be possible.

The only way to avoid them is to end the unhappy state of affairs by agreement to reunite Germany and rectify the anomalous position of Berlin.

If the West persist in integrating Western Germany into their "defence" sys-

BEHIND THE NEWS

tem, the very plan which is intended to give them greater security will lead to an increasing insecurity in the possibility that some incident might lead to World War III.

The shooting down of the planes is not a reason for a still tougher policy or, as Dr. Adenauer suggests, for pressing through the ratification of the Bonn and Paris Agreements. It is a pressing reason for a change of policy.

If both sides really want to prevent such incidents and relieve instead of increase the tension, they can have a peaceful solution. It must be based upon the setting up as the result of free and secret elections of an all-German government with whom a peace treaty can be negotiated on the basis of the disarmed neutrality of Germany and the withdrawing of all occupation troops and air forces.

The cost of war

LAST week the United Nations passed by 55 votes to 5 a resolution calling on member governments to help to meet the "great and continuing need" for relief in Korea.

We are told that the cost to the Koreans of liberation involves the following items:

- Battle casualties running into hundreds of thousands;
- Millions of civilians uprooted from their homes;
- Countless families decimated and dispersed;
- Multitudes of children orphaned;
- Over 400,000 dwellings totally destroyed;
- Damage to fields and paddies, mines and factories defying accurate computation;
- The Korean people reduced to dire poverty and their entire economy threatened by inflation.

Lieutenant-Colonel Bridgehead, former C-in-C of British Forces in Korea said in Melbourne on March 12 that it was now impossible for UN forces to win the Korean war.

One victory can however be achieved if,

PERSIA'S OIL HERO

WITH the exception of Jean Paul Marat, the skin-diseased French revolutionary leader who spent most of his days in a bath-tub and was finally stabbed to death in it by Charlotte Corday, the world has surely never produced a more fantastic political figure than Dr. Mossadeq, Persia's Prime Minister and Oil Hero.

He faints, weeps, has heart attacks, retires to bed, seems to live on the edge of death—and wins his battles against one opponent after another. Is he superhumanly clever or are his adversaries . . . ?

If the West persist in integrating Western Germany into their "defence" sys-

will undoubtedly place the Italian Government in an embarrassing position.

It will also, as the pacifist is justified in remarking, provoke heated discussion and partisanship in Italy, where British popularity at present stands lower than it has ever done since the days of the oil embargo against the Abyssinian war. Oil, oil and again oil!

But let us return to Persia. The horse to "starve" Dr. Mossadeq into financial submission might as well be given up.

When the scarecrow Premier asked for extended powers on January 19, to strengthen his hand in the oil negotiations, 59 deputies voted in his favour, 7 abstained, and only one voted against. That settled legitimate parliamentary opposition.

When the Shah, on February 28, wanted to leave the country "for health reasons" (but more probably in order to place himself beyond the danger of being made altogether powerless to influence events), he was made to change his mind in a matter

By ROY SHERWOOD

of hours—and change it in exactly the direction desired by Dr. Mossadeq.

When rioting continued for more than two days, it became doubtful against whom it was directed, particularly since the Tudeh (the Communist Party) joined in, with which the Premier is not commonly on the best possible terms. Once again, fatuous hopes arose that Dr. Mossadeq's days of power might be coming to an end.

But it took only a matter of hours to make it clear that Mossadeq's one identifiable main opponent, Mullah Kashani, had lost the day, that the Shah had decided that discretion was the better part of valour, that the army and police were doing the Premier's bidding, and that high-ranking officers who might have sided against him would be thinking matters over, quietly—in prison.

It is perfectly true, as one writer has pointed out, that Dr. Mossadeq is "riding a tiger." He has won his latest victory by a new informal combination of forces some of which are highly dangerous, and may later prove so even to himself.

But beyond all this stands one all-important, elementary fact. In this struggle between the Anglo-Iranian Oil Company and Persia Dr. Mossadeq has the masses of his country's people as completely behind him as Winston Churchill had the British people behind him against Hitler. That is why he can win his internal battles even though the absence of oil revenue plays havoc with Persian economy. And if he should fail in the end in obtaining the kind of settlement he and his people want, the tactical victory of western oil interests would soon bring a strategical defeat in the struggle against Communism.

abandoning its futile attempt to solve problems by violence, UN will turn to constructive peacemaking.

For children: • 006d.

KOERA is not the only area which requires assistance.

The British Government proposes to ask Parliament for £500,000 towards the programme of technical assistance to undeveloped areas during 1953.

The proposed contribution to the International Children's Emergency Fund is still less, a mere £100,000. On the other hand, the Government is preparing to spend £1,636m. upon "defense," which includes manufacture of the most destructive weapons.

Out of every pound that comes from the pockets of the British tax payers at least 8s. is required for armaments, while only 3d. of a penny goes towards the work of constructive peacemaking and 6d. of penny towards UN's work for children.

This indeed is to throw away the substance of peacemaking for the vain shadow of defence.

Conversions on Koje

WE have seen a number of accounts in religious journals of missionary work undertaken among the prisoners captured by UN during the war in Korea; the more we read the more our curiosity is aroused.

The last we have encountered is reproduced from Zion's Herald by the Work Christian Digest and is headed "Thousands of Communists become Christians in Koje POW Camp."

This work has been under the charge of an army chaplain, Lt.-Col. Ivan C. Whipple, who had a working staff of seven Korean pastors, two missionary chaplains and several Department of Army civilians.

Why this missionary work should be undertaken by an army chaplain, and why his assistants should be attached to the Department of Army, is not explained.

In twelve months a total of 4,261 Christians of protestant denominations among the prisoners had been increased to 15,402.

The rate of Christian conversion, it would be perceived, can be much greater among prisoners of war than it is normally among those who have not their advantages.

We are told too, that the activities of these Christian missionaries were handicapped by the hard core of Communist leadership among the prisoners and the general attitude of belligerency and rebellion. Nevertheless, conversion had a real meaning.

Each convert had to take an examination to become a catechumen. Each catechumen was required to pursue a course of study in Bible history covering a six-month period. He had to submit to a written three-hour examination, the satisfactory completion of which was awarded a certificate and admitted to the rite of baptism.

By the time that the riots on the island had been broken, we are told, and Koje was "under control" one out of ten of the prisoners had become Christians by these standards of selection.

There are a great many things that we are not told that we should like to know about this Christian missionary work among others whether the conversions courses of study preceded or followed "screening" process undertaken by camp command.

UP TO AVERAGE

MANY who did not have the privilege of knowing Edgar Rogers will have gathered from Peace News what a grand old man he was.

He was always anxious to help the Peace Pledge Union in every way possible and had asked his friends to send to PPU Headquarters Fund the money they would otherwise have spent on flowers for his funeral. As a result, Headquarters Fund has been filled by nearly £9.

We are grateful for this last thought for the PPU and for these tributes to his memory.

The Fund has also had a grand gift of £100 from an anonymous donor and from two other faithful friends in the West Country. Another old friend sent us £10 received from the Packing Station for his eggs, while another member who was in bed with "flu" sent his wage packet unopened.

Other gifts have included books, stamps, postal orders ranging from 2s. to £2 (one accompanied by an appropriate verse!) and cheques to cover an hour's work kept for Dick Sheppard House.

The result is the wonderful addition of £173 to our total.

The last time I wrote we were behindhand on the average to date of what we hope to receive in the year. Now we have caught up splendidly—our average should be £200 and we have £209. I could express adequately the gratitude we all feel for this great help and encouragement.

I do hope that other readers of Peace News will want to show their gratitude to those who have given the PPU's Fund such a good lift towards our aim for 1953, and will be encouraged to send their gifts so that we do not fall behind again.

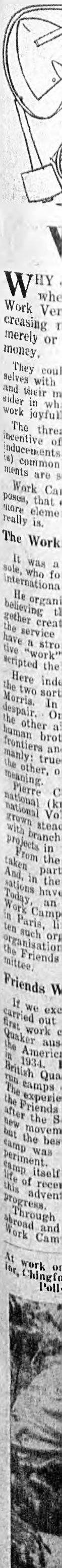
STUART MORRIS

General Secretary.

Total to date: £209

Our aim for the year: £1,000.

Donations to the Peace Pledge Union should be sent marked "Headquarters Fund" to the PPU Treasurer at Sheppard House, Endsleigh Street, W.C.1.



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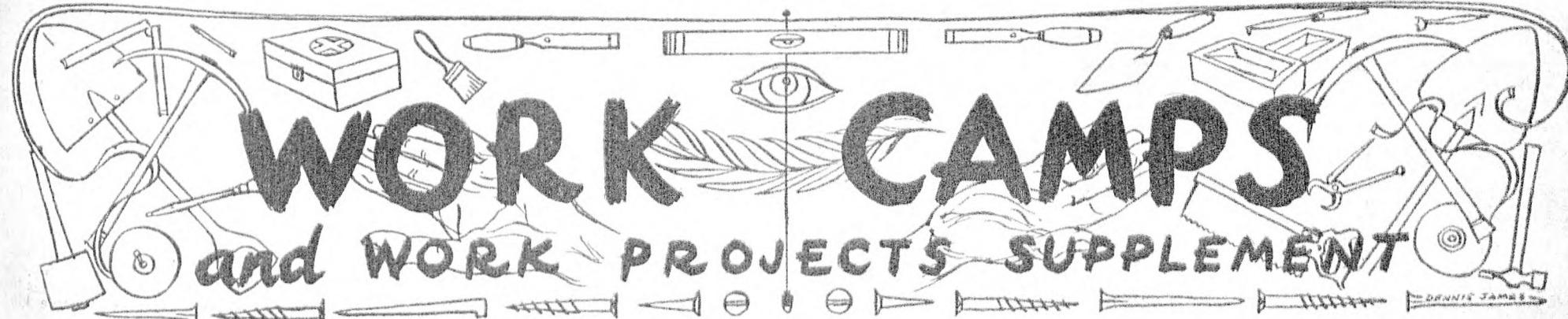
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STUART MORRIS
General Secretary

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WHY WORK CAMPS?

WHAT do people work? Already, when Morris wrote "Useful Work Versus Useless Toil," an increasing number of people worked merely or primarily in order to earn money.

They could not afford to concern themselves with the social value of work done, and their masters could not afford to consider in what circumstances a man could work joyfully.

The threat of unemployment and the incentive of higher wages were the only inducements to do one's best. It was (and is) commonly believed that these inducements are sufficient.

Work Camps serve, among other purposes, that of recalling us to a deeper and more elemental conception of what work really is.

The Work Camp Movement

It was a Swiss engineer, Pierre Ceresole, who founded the first organisation for international service through manual work.

He organised international work parties, believing that the idea of working together creatively for a common purpose—the service of humanity—must ultimately have a stronger appeal than the destructive "work" for which Governments conscripted their young men.

Here indeed was a perfect example of the two sorts of work described by William Morris. In one was hope; in the other was despair. One was the expression of life; the other aimed at death. One expressed human brotherhood; the other preserved frontiers and barriers. One was essentially manly: true manliness must surely refuse the other, once it understood what was its meaning.

Pierre Ceresole's Service Civil International (known in Britain as the International Voluntary Service for Peace) has grown steadily ever since its foundation, with branches in many countries and work projects in many parts of the world.

From the beginning many Quakers have taken part in this great movement. And, in the meantime, many other organisations have grown up with similar objects. Today, an Association of International Work Camps for Peace, with headquarters in Paris, links together the activities of ten such organisations. Among the younger organisations affiliated to the AIWCP is the Friends (Quakers) Work Camps Committee.

Friends Work Camps Committee

If we exclude the temporary relief work carried out after the First World War, the first work camps actually organised under Quaker auspices were those sponsored by the American Friends Service Committee, in 1934. It was not until 1947 that British Quakers began, in a small way, to run camps of their own for young people.

The experience of those who had served in the Friends Relief Service on the Continent, after the Second World War, provided the new movement with some trained leaders, but the best type of "pattern" for a work camp was regarded as a matter for experiment. The field of discovery is the camp itself; and in describing the typical life of recent camps we shall soon see that this adventure of discovery is still in progress.

Through its contact with organisations abroad and with the AIWCP the Friends Work Camps Committee helps volunteers at work on an Adult Educational Centre for Chingford, in the suburbs of London. Polly Pennel from the USA.



"Here, you see, are two kinds of work—one good, the other bad; one not far removed from being a blessing, a tightening of life; the other a mere curse, a burden to life."

"Which is the difference between them, then? This: one has hope in it, the other has not. It is manly to do the one kind of work, and manly also to refuse to do the other."

—William Morris.

who wish to work in other countries by putting them in touch with these other organisations.

But it is a sound principle, maintained by most organisations dealing with work projects, not to encourage anyone to go to a camp in another country until he or she has shown, at home, the two most necessary qualities—a capacity for hard work and the quality of a "good mixer."

The Friends Work Camps Committee has its own camps in Britain, where the volunteer is encouraged to make a beginning.

Up to one third of those who take part in a camp organised by Friends in Britain may come from foreign countries. A British volunteer will be to some extent their host and possibly the link through whose help the visitor from abroad will come to know the people in the neighbourhood of the camp.

In one other matter the Friends Work Camps Committee has found a special

by Reginald Reynolds

function. It holds Junior Camps for boys and girls from 16 to 18 years of age.

Owing to the fact that no similar camps are held on the Continent (except occasionally by the Youth Hostels Association) there is little opportunity for boys and girls of this age-group to participate in camps abroad. There is, for the same reason, some difficulty in finding visitors from abroad for our Junior Camps. But these Junior Camps have been a source of great inspiration to many young people.

* It makes you think *

There are some things that can never be described. You have to experience them.

The harmony of the ideal camp can no more be put into words than a Bach fugue can be described to someone who has never heard it. The only satisfactory answer to anyone who wants to know what a Work Camp is like is not even "Come and See."

First, there is the work itself. In two of our 1952 camps the work consisted of helping to build Community Centres in new industrial suburbs. A new industrial

suburb probably has no natural centre. As a community it hardly exists. It is so many streets of houses and so many families.

Before they can have their dances or concerts or WEA classes there is hard work to be done.

Mr. A. is the moving spirit. His dream of a Community Centre is as fine a thing as the dreams that made men build churches. And, like St. Francis, he wants to fulfil his own dreams in the same simple and practical way.

However, though money is available for the materials there is little or none available for the work.

Quite suddenly Mr. A. receives an offer which even he, a confirmed optimist, can hardly credit. A group of young men and women, some of them foreigners from places as distant as Finland or America, are offering their services.

Surely there must be a snag in this somewhere? Why should people come all the way from Finland or anywhere else to help the citizens of X-town to build themselves a Community Centre?

When the strangers arrive they are regarded with curiosity. They are clearly play-boys and play-girls whose value on the site will be negligible. But there they are and their very presence is a challenge to the imagination. A representative from the local press turns out to photograph them at work on the first day; and he is

particularly interested in those who have come the greatest distances.

One way or another he voices the question which everyone in the locality is already wanting to ask: "Why have you come?" For a party of peace-makers is a very good beginning. You could travel

● Next page, col. 4

Digging foundation for the schoolhouse in Matrei (Austria)



Facts about Work Camps : I

THE ASSOCIATION OF INTERNATIONAL WORK CAMPS FOR PEACE

THE ASSOCIATION was founded in 1946 at Brussels for the purpose of distributing information to the member work camp organisations and helping to co-ordinate their efforts and programmes. Offices are at: 110 Avenue Mozart, Paris, 16e. It has ten member organisations, which, for the most part, organise work camps in Europe for the summer months. Some member organisations offer opportunities to do longer term services.

THE WORK

varies from camp to camp, but always aims at helping communities or individuals in need. It may be clearing land for refugees in Finland, building homes in Germany or France, clearing avalanche debris in Switzerland, helping in flooded areas in Italy, Holland and Britain, or doing social work among the Algerians. The work does not compete with paid labour, nor is it work which might be done by unemployed of the area.

THE VOLUNTEERS

are young men and women of different nationalities, creeds and occupations, who give a minimum of two or three weeks' service. They receive only food and lodgings during the period of work. Travel is usually at the expense of the volunteer. No salaries are paid. The spirit of voluntary service is uppermost in camp life.

THE CAMPS

operate under simple living conditions. Each work camp, usually a group of 20-25 volunteers, is considered as an experiment in communal living, with each volunteer sharing equally in the discussions, duties and life of the camp.

VOLUNTARY SERVICE PROJECTS

Opportunities are offered by some of the member organisations to do longer term service in Voluntary Service Projects. Where this is undertaken, the period of service is expected to be about two years. Living conditions remain simple, though they are affected by the greater emphasis on continuity of personnel and work reflected throughout the programme. Some volunteers enter this service in an effort to make a constructive contribution to international understanding, instead of participation in military preparation. Some governments have recognised it as an acceptable form of alternative service.

THE MEMBERS

of the Association are:

International Voluntary Service for Peace, IVSP, UK and 13 other countries (known on the Continent as Service Civil International, SCI).

Friends' Ambulance Unit International Service, UK (FAUIS).

Friends' Work Camps Committee, UK (FWCC).

American Friends' Service Committee, USA (AFSC).

Brother Service Commission, USA (BSC).

Internationella Arbetslag, Sweden (IAL).

Kansainvälinen Vapaaehtoinen Tyraettäjäriyhdistö, Finland (KVT).

Mellomførtlig Samvirke, Denmark (MS).

Mennonite Voluntary Service, USA (MVS).

Nothelfergemeinschaft der Freunde, Germany (NHG).

Engineer who began it all

By Christina Yates

IT may be said that Pierre Ceresole, who died in 1945 in his 67th year was the father of the whole work camp movement as well as leader and inspirer of the International Voluntary Service for Peace (known on the continent as Le Service Civil International). It was his conviction that "we make no progress for peace because we lack the courage to do as much as the soldier," however misguided, does for his cause.

He was a pacifist who combined qualities not always found together: on the one hand a strong sense of responsibility to the community, of discipline and order, and on the other a rugged individualism, unwavering courage in following his vocation ("conscience" is too limited a term). His sense of duty was rooted in a family tradition of public citizenship. Thus he felt it right (thereby surprising some of his Anglo-Saxon friends) to press for an officially recognised form of "alternative service" for conscientious objectors in Switzerland (where conscription had long been in force) while at the same time directing and inspiring voluntary projects of reconstruction in Europe and India.

His friends recall his keen, vigorous, loosely-knit but stalwart figure in his faded blue overalls conferring with the local surveyor—all the engineer in him alert and absorbed in the technical details, or striding to take the necessary measurements, a very concentration of eagerness, or wielding pick or shovel beside his brother Ernst, the Swiss Army Colonel who joined in the work of SCI (though not a pacifist). But the other—and far harder—form of witness to which Pierre felt called was a negative one. Refusal to pay war taxes or to observe black-out regulations; anti-war protests in Church; attempts to enter Germany illegally—these activities resulted in numerous terms of imprisonment. Not punishable by law, but raising doubts in some quarters as to his sanity, was his refusal, on three occasions, to accept his share of a family legacy.

Practical co-operation in relief work may gradually lead to uncritical acquiescence in underlying evil. Protests and non-co-operation may degenerate into egotism and sterility. It was Ceresole's mission to give equal expression to both negative and positive forms of witness. No reliable record exists of his total number of imprisonments. In the last four years of his life—after his marriage in 1941—he was imprisoned six times. He lived long enough to see the end of the war, to renew contacts with friends all over the world, and to rejoice in a new generation of "work campers."

A CAMP FOR WAR RESISTERS

THE annual Scandinavian Camp, organised jointly by the War Resisters' International movements in all the Scandinavian countries, will be held this year at the Folk High Schools, near Copenhagen. It opens on the afternoon of Monday, July 27, and continues until Aug. 1.

Members from other countries are particularly welcome to this interesting and worth-while gathering. Applications should be made as soon as possible to: Hagbard Jonasson, Kratholmsvej 6, Holte, Denmark.

Construction of a channel to bring water to the Kahyle village of Tardhant (Algeria)



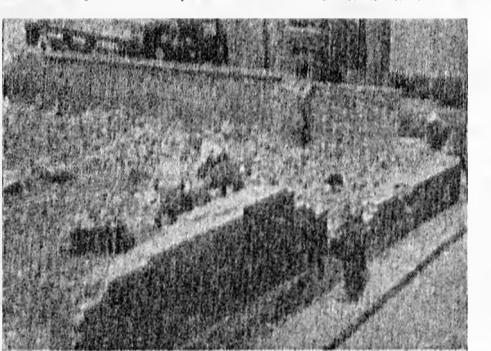
Passers by are curious



"Allies, Enemies and Neutrals" came together to clear the site of the old Ratcliffe Meeting House in much-bombed Stepney, East London.

The old foundations were removed, the ground levelled, part of the wall repaired and a low wall built around the site.

Campers from Austria, Germany, America, Britain, Switzerland and Sweden



took part and they were joined by many of the local children.

Top: Ursula James (Britain) answering questions. Centre: preparing the wall for repair. Bottom: The playground begins to be used while it is finished off.



Some British projects for 1953

Resettlement work in flooded areas at Canvey Island; continuous; FAU.

Hospital orderly duties at Bristol; continuous; FAU.

Forestry at Kershopefoot and Southwater; continuous; FAU.

Forestry (wage earning) near Bourne; summer; SCI.

The Movement in Britain THEY BUILT MORE THAN A VILLAGE HALL

Work Camps in Britain often seem to lack the dramatic appeal of the kind of work undertaken in other countries after earthquakes, avalanches, and other disasters of peace and war.

Even in the recent floods in Eastern England, it has been shown that the relief agencies and the Forces have been well equipped to cope with the emergency, although it is now clear that there is much of value for Work Camps to do in the aftermath.

Camps in Great Britain are usually less spectacular in the help they give to rural communities; old peoples' homes, schools for backward children, youth clubs, etc. This is a story of one job only recently completed by the International Voluntary Service for Peace.

TRYSSALLANT is a village in a wilder part of Wales that had no meeting place, and an over-crowded school.

A member of IVSP, who is an architect by profession, and a conscientious objector by conviction, had already taken part in a previous service in South Wales, where IVSP had helped a group of miners to build themselves a village hall.

Working for the Forestry Commission, this IVSP member came to "Tryssallant" where he found there had been talk for sixteen years about the building of a much-needed village hall. He helped to form a committee and then designed a building which skilfully made use of prefabricated parts intended for barns to make a meeting hall a fine feature for the village.

The total cost of the project was estimated at £2,500, with voluntary labour (£3,750 was the normal contractor's cost).

Raising the money

A fund of £820 had been locally raised for the cost of materials and, together with a grant from the Ministry that had been applied for, and an interest-free loan from the Council of Social Service, this was felt sufficient to cover the cost. A basic structure of prefabricated concrete had been ordered from a factory, and two specialist erectors came with them.

The men of the village had intended to provide the necessary labour, but were unable to free themselves from their jobs in quarries, factories and farms during the hours when the erectors were available. IVSP was, therefore, asked to find volunteers to do the job.

Although IVSP summer services were over, it was decided to raise a team, and five British and three Americans were found to go. Members of an IVSP local group came at week-ends to help them.

Unforeseen conflicts

The volunteers worked about sixty hours a week on pick-and-shovel labour, brick laying, and providing man-power to manipulate and erect the half-ton concrete structure and members. At first there was not the help from the village that had been expected.

Unforeseeably the team found themselves in the centre of a number of conflicts over the merits of a village hall: between Chapel and Church, between local political interests, between longstanding family feuds.

Bad weather made things worse; there was continual rain, and in one storm the gale reached a force of 90 miles an hour, and a 40 ft. wall (fortunately built by professional labour!!) was blown down.

Nevertheless the work progressed, and at the end of the two weeks the site was, in the words of one volunteer "transformed from a pile of material scattered about a sod-looking field, full of hills and holes, into something like a village hall, going up on well-defined foundations."

It seemed to members of the team a pity that the local conflicts and the bad weather had made it impossible to do more, but the following letter received two months after

For new recruits

THE organisations forming the Association of International Work Camps for Peace co-operate in exchanging volunteers, making arrangements for suitably qualified volunteers to take part in each other's camps. Campers should always contact the organisation in the country where they live, in the first instance.

People without work camp experience are usually asked to serve in a work camp at home first of all. This enables them to find out what the camps are like and the contribution they are able to make to camp life. Experience has shown that campers are able to make a better contribution to the camps abroad and find their time there more useful if they have been to camps in their own country first.

the service ended suggests that more had been done than could at the time be seen:

"The work begun by your service is finished. Now the structure, walls and roof of the hall are complete: a great achievement made possible only by the real start given by the volunteers here.

"We finished just before Christmas—it was a terrible battle right to the end; men from the village turned out in snowstorms to push on the last part of the erection and roofing.

"It is interesting to see how long the influence of the team is lasting. To run a service in a situation of apathy and other trouble is a hard task but even more important than to work in conditions of high morale."

In a mining village



The installation of lavatories and the renovation of a social centre in the village of Pany-y-waun, near Dowlais, South Wales, was a project which brought work-campers from Denmark, Germany, Italy, Norway, Sweden, USA and Britain together.

They worked under the direction of an architect, John Hughes, who is seen in the top picture watching Ernest Kirk at work.

Below John Roylance is digging the trench for the filter outlet, first water carriage system in the village.



Why Work Camps?

From page three

three times round the world and never been asked such a splendid leading question.

Voluntary service is news, and good news at that. It's a piece from the Gospel written with pick and shovel, hammer and trowel. If you are lucky they will save you before you leave that "It makes you think." That's better still.

A day's work

The newly arrived campers have plenty to do. Even if they haven't tents to deal with and are offered the use of some buildings, there are plenty of practical problems demanding immediate attention.

Arriving on a Saturday, they will spend the weekend "settling in." Few of them even know each other, in all probability, and at the outset a great deal of extra responsibility rests on the Camp Leader. But a good Camp Leader is anxious to share his or her responsibilities as soon as possible; and the House Meeting, at which all campers are present, soon learns to make its own appointments and other decisions as the campers become acquainted with each other.

On the Monday morning after that first weekend the real job begins. All take a turn in the kitchen and before the rest are up two have been at work preparing breakfast. In most camps this will be at 7 a.m. At 7.30 there follows the twenty minutes "Quiet Time" which is characteristic of Quaker camp.

Blisters

The camp is sure to be near the work site; and by 8 a.m. we are all there and ready to start. The first work may be to dig foundations for building or ditches to drain a field, or we may begin on the renovation of an old building. Most of us are probably soft-handed and unused to this sort of work. Before a few hours have passed there are blisters to be dealt with. We asked for it and we've got it.

Before we stop at noon for the sandwiches which the cooks bring out to us we have already learnt one valuable lesson—a healthy respect for the job and for the man who does it so much better than we do.

If we came with any "high-falutin'" ideas in our heads, thinking we were going to show people something, forgetting what we have to learn, it's all worked out of that first morning. We know now that the first thing we have to do is to learn something—that's good for humility.

Yet, paradoxically, it's pride that keeps us going. Not personal pride but pride in the thing we stand for. We didn't come here for an easy time and we aren't having one. The team works, it may be, a little grimly that second day. But the campers can always find a lighter side to anything in the day's work; and even blisters or working with stiff limbs can make you laugh when you are all in the same state.

All mad!

The local people have at last decided that we aren't play-boys and play-girls after all. They have a new comment, that is nearer the truth: We are all mad! That is a blessed moment to reach. They even seem to like us for being mad, as though they too were rather tired of the same ways of practical politicians and other persons of impeccable sanity.

Eight hours a day we had determined to work and an eight-hour day it must be, with no slackening off. At the beginning this eight-hour day would be about all we could manage, most of us. But as we hardened and toughened we would find ourselves towards the end of the three or four weeks of life of the camp, looking anxiously at the results of our labours. Perhaps, after all, we were not going to finish the job! Then the eight hours would seem poor measure.

During the last days of a work camp there is no unusual thing for the work to continue until it is too dark for any more to be done. The "madness" seems to reach a crescendo and all work then as though possessed. But the spirit that possesses them is the Creative Spirit. It is as though quite suddenly one knew why one was put upon this earth.

Evenings in camp

The evening programme is always decided by the House Meeting, itself an evening function whenever a meeting appears to be necessary. We may be invited to the homes of our local friends, or to some more formal meeting with them, or they may be invited to our camp.

Our most important evening will be that of our last day. That night—if you didn't know your fellow-campers, hadn't seen them at a concert or a sing-song and been the victim of some of their ragging—you might think them very odd people indeed. For they sit down and pull everything to pieces—their own work, the way they've spent their leisure time, the choice of the project itself and, in fact, everything capable of criticism.

Morbid? Not a bit of it. This is the Evaluation Meeting. Its findings are invaluable to the Friends Work Camps Committee; for its object is quite simply to help us to hold even better camps next year. And that is one reason why the camps improve and will go on improving. We are still learning. We never expect to stop learning.

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Facts about
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By E.
Secretary of
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Facts about Work Camps: II HOW UNESCO HELPS

By Hans Peter Müller

Secretary of the UNESCO Co-ordination Committee for International Voluntary Work Camps.

FROM its beginning, UNESCO recognised the practical contribution of international voluntary work camps to reconstruction and education of youth for world-mindedness and international understanding.

In the Spring of 1948, a conference was held at UNESCO of all organisations sponsoring work camps, including representatives of large student and national youth service organisations. This conference established a permanent Co-ordination Committee to deal with the pooling of information and to help extend and strengthen the movement. Since May 1951, the Committee has had a permanent Secretariat in the UNESCO buildings at 19 Av. Kléber, Paris 16e.

UNESCO is helping work camps in the following ways:

1. Libraries and book kits have been sent to work camps in 23 countries;
2. UNESCO camp lecturers have been touring work camps in a number of countries every summer, participating in camps and training courses, leading discussions and advising camp leaders;
3. Publication of the "Handbook on Organising International Voluntary Work Camps" in English, French, Spanish and German;
4. Publicising work camps. Information sheets on work camps have been circulated in English, French and Spanish. Articles have appeared in various UNESCO periodicals and publications. The Vacation Supplement to Study Abroad contains information about work camp programmes. Press conferences have been arranged and also radio programmes. UNESCO National Commissions are regularly informed about work camp activities and invited to assist;
5. Travel Aid. The number of travel grants allotted to organisations sponsoring work camps is increasing. Nine travel grants have been allocated for intercontinental travel to work camp volunteers;
6. Assistance to joint camp leader training courses;
7. Allotment of funds for specific work camp projects. In 1951, nearly £2,000 was allotted to international voluntary work camps reconstructing five schools and a home for widows and orphans in the earthquake area in Assam.

The Co-ordination Committee is executing the programme set down by the Annual Conference of Work Camp Organisers and is directly responsible to these organisations for information, liaison between organisations, joint meetings, survey and preparation for setting up special joint projects.

In 1953, the Co-ordination Committee will sponsor a joint Camp Leader Training Course at the International Youth Institute in Ganting by Munich.

It has recently started a campaign for helping the victims of the floods by fund raising through the special Gift Coupon Project to help reconstruction camps of organisations in Holland and possibly later on individual or joint work camp projects for reconstruction in the devastated areas.

BRIDGE BUILDING IN ITALY

By Pierluigi Vagriani

AFTER the flood damage of 1951, the Italian branch of Service Civil International turned to the situation of the flooded areas in Southern Italy.

An investigation brought to light the extremely poor conditions of these places, and a first project in San Lorenzo del Vallo was planned to help a poor community. A road was repaired and built in the village. This camp brought up many problems and the results were not wholly satisfactory. It was the first experience of work in South Italy and these problems were expected. But they gave the Italian branch the chance to start a more serious programme of work.

It was seen firstly that no valuable work could be done in the South unless social work followed upon the pick and shovel work. So the next camp in Calabria took place at Siderno, where a bridge was built and social service—medical assistance and teaching—was organised in the community. The good results of this gave proof that the social work needed to be developed on a more organised basis.

With these experiences, the Italian branch is now started upon a project in Donnalucata to build a school. The camp started on March 9 and will continue into early August. Much is expected from this project. As was said at the end of the last year's camp: "We have built a bridge, let us now cross it and meet the people on the other side."

Many projects of work in Calabria and Sicily are planned for future work camps, the poor conditions of living in South Italy particularly need the help of us all.

OVERSEAS PROJECTS

Rebuilding in Germany

"Both my parents were killed by the Germans, and our home was destroyed," writes Irene Jacoby in this description of her work-camp experiences

MY service took me to Switzerland, Germany and France, and I also took part in various services in England.

In Switzerland we worked in a village of 700 people whose daily lives had been seriously disorganised by a terrible avalanche. The goats and various other animals on which they depended for their livelihood were unable to graze, because most of the pasture-land was covered with snow, ice and uprooted trees. We worked a 10-hour day in the hot sun, loosening the snow and ice so that they could melt.



The group of volunteer workers came from various organisations—a Protestant youth group, a Catholic youth group, Rover Scouts and others—the biggest group being provided by the Service Civil International, of which IVSP is the British section.

At one time there were 66 people, from 12 different countries, in the camp. Altogether 700 people worked there for a short or long period.

When the camp ended, many of the people of the village came to see us off at the station, and I think we left behind a feeling of friendship, and the knowledge that here was a group of people of many nationalities who had learnt to live and work together in peace.

From Switzerland I went to a camp in Germany. I had a very special reason for wishing to work there—it was my mother's birth-place, and I came to England from Danzig as a refugee in 1939. Both my parents were killed by the Germans, and our home was destroyed.

The work which we did was building houses for refugees, many of whom were ex-Nazis. We built, we dug trenches for water mains and foundations for houses.

But the greatest thing for me in that camp was the contacts that we made with the local people, some of whom found it

hard to realise that a group of English, Americans and other nationalities had actually come to help them. The only English and Americans that they had known before were the soldiers, some of whom still harboured a hatred of Germans, and who swaggered around as if they owned the country.

The army manoeuvres, which make our land unusable, and sometimes destroyed houses and barns, had caused deep resentment.

It was a revelation to the people, therefore, to meet a group who really wanted to help—not to educate the Germans, but to work with their hands and live among them; who wanted to discuss the problems that were facing Germany, and who were willing to be criticised for their own countries' mistakes.

After 10 weeks in Germany I was very sorry to leave.

French settlers remain aloof in Algiers

By JOPP van der SPEK, Acting Secretary Algiers SCI.

THE aims of SCI are the same in Algeria as in every other country where we work, though their expression may be slightly modified in a continent where the whole background is so different from those other countries and where colonisation and racial discrimination have engendered a hatred and fear which make human relationships much more compli

cated than in most European countries.

Since 1948 SCI has, by a number of the "pick and shovel" services, which are its normal tradition, contributed something to the physical well-being of underprivileged communities by building or improving water-supplies, roads, schools. By less "orthodox" SCI services it has given simple medical care and organised elementary school classes, both in mountain villages and in the slum town of Bechari, near Algiers.

In services, local groups and committees there has always been a good proportion of Moslem members. We regret profoundly that most of our non-Moslem friends come from abroad, that we have not so far managed to interest in our work young people from the families of French settlers. This is a serious challenge to us.

SCI in Algeria needs the support of all other work camp organisations. We need good volunteers. But it is essential that these volunteers should understand certain things: they must come in a spirit of service and of real humility, prepared to give cheerfully in the face of all sorts of discouragements, and to learn both from those among whom they are working and from the experience of those who have worked before them. Then they will find that they have not only given something of worth, but that they too have received—a precious and enriching experience.



The reading lesson

Basic Education in Mexico

HUAMANTLA, Tlapacoyan, Ixcatlán, the very names of these far-off places in Mexico seem to have been enough to cast a spell on such writers as D. H. Lawrence and W. J. Turner. This summer they are attracting people of a different sort: groups of young American men and women are going out into the mountainous region 85 miles west of Mexico City, to work with pick, shovel and hypodermic syringe for the welfare of the local population.

This opportunity for work has been provided by the American Friends Service Committee, which has arranged for three service camps to be held between June and August in Mexico.

After the Orientation Conference, to be held in Cuernavaca, participants start their field work. In some places the work is in hospitals or clinics, in others it includes projects for building local schools, repairing highways, improving the drainage and water-supply systems. In the Valle de Bravo region, volunteers work in local schools and surrounding rural communities, doing public health work, and organising recreation and arts and crafts for the children.

For those who wish to work for longer periods, the Friends Service Committee has established four units which work the whole year round. One of these has been co-operating since 1949 with the Mexican Government's Pilot Project in Basic Education. The aim of the scheme is to raise the entire standard of living in the Nayarit area, and since it began, volunteers have participated in all aspects of local life—education, health, economics, public service and agriculture. This year, volunteers are building a school in the village of Las Iguanas. They are also teaching English and crafts in schools, conduct sewing classes for women, and encourage and help villagers to plant their own vegetable gardens.

As a result of this work, the government of El Salvador invited the AFSC into their country also, to participate in a large-scale colonisation programme, initiated jointly by the United Nations and the El Salvador government. There a unit is at work building homes and developing community services.

It was seen firstly that no valuable work could be done in the South unless social work followed upon the pick and shovel work. So the next camp in Calabria took place at Siderno, where a bridge was built and social service—medical assistance and teaching—was organised in the community. The good results of this gave proof that the social work needed to be developed on a more organised basis.

With these experiences, the Italian branch is now started upon a project in Donnalucata to build a school. The camp started on March 9 and will continue into early August. Much is expected from this project. As was said at the end of the last year's camp: "We have built a bridge, let us now cross it and meet the people on the other side."

Many projects of work in Calabria and Sicily are planned for future work camps, the poor conditions of living in South Italy particularly need the help of us all.

SOME 1953 PROJECTS

Key to the initials of organising bodies appears at end of "Facts about Work Camps: I" on page 3.

ALGERIA

Land clearing for pilot farm at Point Rsiila; continuous work; SCI.

AUSTRIA

Building T.B. hospital for refugees at Thalau; July 11-Aug. 14; BSC.

Recreational work for refugee children near Linz; July 11-Aug. 14; BSC.

BELGIUM

Levelling ground for Scouts at Tournepepe; July 15-Aug. 15; SCI.

FINLAND

Children's recreational home (Junior camp) at Ekkbyholm; June 15, July 26, Aug. 24; KVT-LJGD.

Land clearing at Palosalmi; June 20-Aug. 19; KVT.

Building Folk High School for Laps at Inari; July 1-Aug. 19; KVT.

FRANCE

Spanish Refugee centre at Gourdon (Lot); April 15-July 15; SCI.

Aid to Old People's Homes at Chaudron (Maine-et-Loire); April 15-July 15; at Vitry-le-François (Marne); April 16-July 15; SCI.

Aiding "Castors" Housing project at

Quimper; July 15-Aug. 15; at Bayonne; September; SCI.

Road construction for "Castors" at La Motte-St-Heray; March 29-April 2; FAU.

Agricultural work at Champevrais; continuous; SCI.

GERMANY

Construction work at Köln/Rosenthal; continuous; FAU.

Refugee Housing Project at Backnang and Lübeck; continuous; MVS; at Krefeld/Förstw.; March 31-April 13; NHG.

Building for Kindergarten at Stuttgart; March 31-April 26; NHG.

Park and garden work for nursery at Krefeld; March 31-April 11; SCI.

Refugee Housing Project at Heiligensee; July 11-Aug. 14; BSC.

Joint Peace Seminar and Work Camp near Helmstedt; July 11-Aug. 14; BSC.

Building agric. school for refugees at Homberg; July 11-Aug. 14; BSC.

Building a peace centre at Kassel; June-July; BSC.

Building community House for Protestant Church at Niederkirchen; July-Aug.; BSC.

Refugee Housing Projects at Buchenwald; June 26-Aug. 22; IAL; at Ludwigshafen; July 6-Sept. 19; SCI.

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THE FELLOWSHIP OF RECONCILIATION • 38 GORD

ORIENT AND OCCIDENT

Building up a new relationship

By RALPH HEGNAUER

The writer has become International Secretary of the Service Civil International following a period of service with other Europeans in India. (The picture right shows them at work with Indians road-building in Simla.)

Last year, in his home country of Switzerland, he was sentenced to ten days' "light imprisonment" for re-

BOTH Orient and Occident need co-operation on all levels and as equals. A genuine give and take between people of goodwill and insight of both worlds can lead to constructive solutions of the various problems of society.

I am convinced that the work and approach of the Service Civil International can be the way of such co-operation. It is true that the output of our work and, therefore, of the direct struggle against misery, is infinitesimally small.

But there is more to it: voluntary manual work is an expression of international solidarity and brotherhood understood by everybody. It is a real statement of the dignity of all work.

It excludes the personal master and servant relationship; it guards against the weakness of superiority, of self-righteousness and of that "teaching" attitude which we white people all too easily adopt in the face of economically less developed people.

Here is no power derived from authority over others involved, and therefore no ground for fear of domination in Orient and Occident relations.

Common working and simple living are not only excellent opportunities for self-education in selflessness, tact and con-

sideration for others; not only do they show what can be achieved through co-operative enterprise, but they also bring together people of different backgrounds on equal levels and terms.

Voluntary team work and living together also present an excellent ground for self-administration, for growth of experience in citizenship and common respon-

sibilities. They are, moreover, an expression of that creative non-violent activity so inherent in Indian goodwill behaviour and tradition.

Voluntary manual work is genuine co-operation, a real encouragement towards self-help, a gift of oneself. This is a particularly sound approach for building up a new Orient-Occident relationship.

"You reminded me how easy it is to build"

PAKISTANI'S TRIBUTE

From SHELDON WEEKS, an American volunteer

WHEN the Service Civil International team first came to live in the midst of the refugees from all parts of India, they were greeted by a degree of curiosity, but no hostility.

The people could not understand at first what these white people from Europe and America were doing among them.

Were they missionaries come to convert them to some religion? Were they a group of foreign "experts" come to study their lives and the conditions they lived in? Had they come to open a restaurant and an hotel (for some people really thought this)?

When the team went to the place where it was to make the first bricks and start constructing the first house, hundreds of people gathered around to see what these strangers were doing.

When they saw that these white people were seriously trying to make a house for a young widow and her children, more people joined the crowd and stared.

None of the team had ever built a mud house before. At times, when they were in doubt as to methods of construction, usually someone stepped from the crowd of watchers and offered friendly advice. At each obstacle someone's memory functioned, and the house was completed without too many faults.

This little help given by a few outsiders (the team) very soon instilled a new spirit of hope in the people. The refugees had been waiting for the government to help them. They were not taking the steps to help themselves that they easily could have. Young men and old who did not find jobs

were idle. But the influence of the team, slight and nearly imperceptible, was soon felt. One volunteer told me:

"A man came to Ralph (the first team leader) to thank him, not for doing anything for him, but because watching the team at work had reminded him how easy it is to build houses, and now he had built one for his family."

In many families the children now begin to take some responsibility on their shoulders with respect to the construction and maintenance of their house. They plaster the walls, try to arrange some form of drainage, build platforms, fire-places and walls around their yards with leftover bricks. Some would plant small trees and flowers and wait many minutes in line for water to carry to the plants in this generally dry, desert earth, where things will flourish if given water.

The best contacts have been made with students, some of whom have worked with the team up to a fortnight; one has been a long-term volunteer for the past months. The students who have become associated with the team have maintained this tie, and are often visiting the team during the day or in the evening.

For a pioneer camp, in a country where the work camp idea is completely new, this has been most encouraging. When any volunteer goes into Karachi, he is greeted by many people, in the streets, on buses and in shops, who in some way wish to show their appreciation and recognition of what the team is doing, even though they may have no connection with the project.

"EVERYONE COMES TO DELHI"

By Ruth Catchpool

THE Quaker Centre, Delhi, "for promoting international and religious understanding, and furthering social and educational work" is situated in the pleasant northern residential quarters of Delhi.

It has the advantage of being near the University, but the disadvantage of being separated by six miles of this long spread-out city from the administrative area of New Delhi.

The house, built and owned by the Women's Christian Temperance Union stands in its own garden, and has a spacious lounge suitable for meetings of up to 100 people.

Here the Sunday morning meeting for worship and meditation gathers an average of 30 sincere seekers after truth, about half of whom might be considered regular and the rest occasional attenders or visitors.

Considering the long distances, and the irregularities of transport, this denotes real keenness and devotion, and at least two thirds of the attendance is Indian. This is the heart of Quaker reconciliation work, for in silent worship of a universal God, and in seeking after his guidance and truth, a deep unity is reached.

At frequent intervals, week day lectures and discussion groups are held, drawing up to 70 people from all walks of life, including a number of political leaders. Under titles such as "Arab-Jewish Co-operation and World Peace," "The Colombo Plan and World Peace," "The Press and World Peace," minds have been stimulated, informed, and brought into sympathetic un-

derstanding, by experts on these subjects.

Here also a constant stream of callers drop in for a chat with the resident secretaries or to discuss some problem, or some need for help. Practical projects of social work directed from the Centre, such as students' work camps, promotion of Youth Hostels, visiting and providing entertainments for children in orphanages, have already drawn together keen groups of supporters and are now being planned and carried out with enthusiasm.

"Everyone comes to Delhi sooner or later." Whether it be business, politics, social service, missionary enterprise, sightseeing, or a brief holiday, the Centre knows the truth of this phrase in the continual flow of guests who welcome a night or two's lodging in quiet and inexpensive circumstances, and who in their turn bring to the Centre a variety and width of outlook which is enriching and refreshing.

PROJECTS IN AMERICA

Continuous services in U.S.A., Puerto Rico, Mexico and El Salvador by AFSC, BSC, and MVS. AFSC's summer programme in USA and Mexico is from June 26 to August 21; AFSC will pay travel (one way), and maintenance expenses for ten Europeans in 1953.



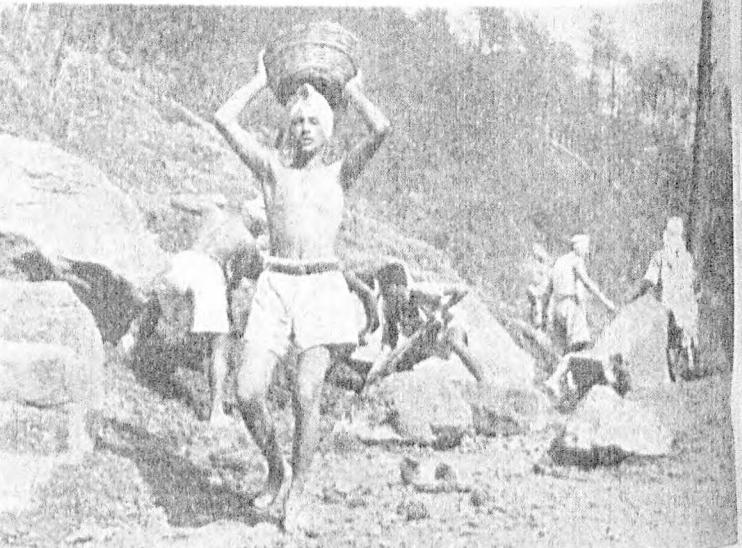
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PEACE YEAR BOOK 1953
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Indians welcome new co-operation

SERVICE Civil International went first to India in 1931 to help in rebuilding villages destroyed by earthquake and flood in Bihar.

In 1950, a team of six went to help building a new township for refugees at Faridabad, near Delhi.

Other services have brought clean water to a mountain village, made doors and windows for a hospital extension, helped to build schools in Assam and build a school road, etc., in a refugee settlement at Ahadabab, and a dispensary for a nomadic jungle tribe in Hyderabad, Deccan.

At present one team is helping build Leprosy Treatment Centre in Assam and another is working with a co-operative farm in Hyderabad, Deccan. Altogether some 17 non-Indians of 7 nationalities, over 250 Indians have served with teams for varying periods.

SCW, of course, found that the Gandhi-Constructive Workers and many groups of student volunteers were already seeking to express in service the dignity and value of manual work. Such groups, however, lacked the international element necessary to demonstrate the possibility of a new kind of relationship between Indians and non-Indians and to extend, in a realistic way, mutual knowledge and understanding of other peoples and countries; they welcomed the international co-operation as a real and valuable encouragement to them in their work.

SOME 1953 PROJECTS

From page 5

AIDING HEIMHEHRSEIDLUNG at Leibnitz and Oberhausen; July 6-Sept. 19.

GREECE

Constructing stone irrigation canal at Pesta; July 11-Aug. 14; BSC/WCC.

INDIA & PAKISTAN

A continuous service for which experienced volunteers are needed.

ISRAEL

Preparing sports field at Nazareth; March 15-29; AFSC.

Student Hostel Project at Jerusalem; summer; AFSC.

LIBYA

Medical work at Benghazi; April; FAU.

NORWAY

Forestry, wage-earning scheme near Oslo; July-Aug.; SCI.

SWITZERLAND

Peace Seminar at Bossey; July-Aug.; BSC/MVS.

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The PPU and the Essex Chronicle

THERE appeared in the Essex Chronicle on Oct. 10, 1952, a leading article which referred to the pamphlet "An Open Letter to the Schoolboys of Britain" published by the Peace Pledge Union, and stated:

"The Peace Pledge Union is run by the Communists and intended to serve their ends. What are those ends? To bring about the class struggle and finally the overthrow of the present regime in this country by violent revolution. This is well known."

In view of the very serious nature of this completely false assertion about the Peace Pledge Union, the Secretary, Stuart Morris, asked for an immediate withdrawal and apology. In the absence of any reply to the request, a writ was issued.

The following apology was published in the Essex Chronicle on Oct. 24, 1952:

"In the editorial article of our issue of the 10th October, 1952, we erroneously referred to the Peace Pledge Union as being run by the Communist Party and intended to serve their ends."

"We have now been informed that the Peace Pledge Union completely and publicly dissociates itself from the Communist Party, with which it is in no way connected. It is an organisation of sincere pacifists founded by the late Canon Dick Sheppard in 1936, whose sole aim is the promotion of world peace."

"We wish to express to the Peace Pledge Union, its sponsors and officers, our sincere regret and apologies for the embarrassment and distress which our misunderstanding may have caused them."

The solicitor to the PPU has now obtained an Order staying any further proceedings in the matter upon the terms that the Defendants pay the sum of £20 by way of damages, together with the whole of the Plaintiff's costs.

Although it would have been possible

to bring clean water, made doors and windows, and build a school settlement at Ahmedabad, Deccan. The centre in Assam is helping build

with a co-operative, Deccan. Altogether, 6 of 7 nationalities have served with periods.

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London, N. 1

for the Plaintiff's to ask for much heavier damages, it was agreed that they should accept a purely nominal sum in order to show that their sole object was to clear the PPU of the damaging assertions made about it, and establish the real truth of its aims and motives.

S. Africa's "Balance sheet of misery"

PEACE NEWS REPORTER

"YOU can read the balance sheets of the great African mining companies in your papers over here, but you don't read the balance sheet of misery which it costs the African workers," said Mr. Solly Sachs, ex-Secretary of the South African Garment Workers' Union dismissed by the Malan Government, to a crowded meeting in London last Monday.

The first major problem in Africa was poverty, he said. To overcome this a large-scale investment policy, both by private firms and through the United Nations, was a prime necessity. Industrialisation has been held up in the past, but it is the only way of survival and progress for Africa's 200 millions. "Progressive capitalism" and improved working conditions were the immediate needs.

The second problem, he said, was the struggle for national independence all over the continent. In South Africa, political oppression by the Whites had made it a racial problem too. To resist, however passively, any of the laws of South Africa was now punishable with flogging, fines, imprisonment or all three. For a second offence, flogging was obligatory on the court.

The meeting unanimously passed a resolution condemning flogging for political offences in South Africa.

Letter to the Editor

I HAVE read many obituaries on Stalin over the last two weeks. Not one of them mentioned the most important thing about him: he was a Marxist. Perhaps the point seemed too obvious, but I doubt it. The British are still dominated by the idea that ideas cannot dominate anybody.

Not only was Stalin a Marxist, but he was, after Lenin, the only consistent Marxist in the Bolshevik Old Guard. He really believed that moralities were determined by economics; that once the means of production had been collectivised, everything would automatically come right (whatever "right" might mean); and, therefore, that any means to that end was justified.

None of the other Old Bolsheviks really believed that: least of all Trotsky, who,

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An Arab refugee baby.
It funds from international sources ceased many babies such as this would be left to die.

United Nations Relief and Works Agency Photo

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even before the Revolution, had been shocked by Stalin's gangster methods of raising funds for the Party. None of them, despite their Marxist professions, really believed that collectivisation should be forced through at any cost, in persecution, oppression and degradation. That is why they, and their followers throughout Russia, were liquidated.

That, too, is why they confessed to every crime demanded of them. Faced with the question, "Why not confess?" they had no answer. According to their theory, there was no answer. Whatever motive they might have for standing out could only be "bourgeois prejudice." Their very virtues witnessed against them.

Some of Stalin's British obituarists, horrified by his regime, have found nothing to admire in his career but his part in the war against Germany. But they also are

inconsistent (as well as shallow and insular); Stalin's foreign war being simply a continuation of his domestic. In the one case, exactly as in the other, he practised the principle of "any means." Those only are in a position to condemn his regime who condemn that principle—consistently.

The sole consistent opponent of Communism, in other words, is the war-resister, whether he knows it or not. He alone affirms, in word and act, that sovereignty of the personal conscience which totalitarianism denies, and democracy fully expresses. And that is his significance. For whether or not pacifism makes for the prevention of war (and there is no unanimity among pacifists on that point), it does make for the reality of democracy—and might, if the worst came, make for its rebirth as well.

F. A. LEA,
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MEETINGS

INTERNATIONAL CLUB, Bath, Every Tuesday, 7.30 p.m. Royal Literary and Scientific Institute, 18 Queen Square, Bath. All welcome.

KING'S WEIGH House Church, Duke St., nr. Bond St. Tube, Sunday at 7 p.m. The Gospel of Peace. Rev. Claud M. Colman, MA, B.Litt.

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Wednesday, April 8

FINSHURY PARK, N.4. Discussion on future Plans. Non-Violent Resistance Group.

Saturday, April 11

KENDAL: 3 p.m. Friends Mtg. Ho. Hugh Faulkner. "Talking Peace in Moscow." Army Conf. FoR.

LONDON, W.C.1: 7 p.m. Dick Shepherd Ho. 6 Euston St. H. Mayo. Dining. "The Sin of Schism. A Quaker pleads Not Guilty." Religious Committee.

MANCHESTER: 7.45 p.m. Leaflet distribution, meet outside Old Trafford Stn., Trafford Bar. PPU.

SATURDAY, April 4
UXBRIDGE: 7 p.m. Friends Mtg. Ho. Belmont Rd. Eddie Hodge. "Universal Language—Does it lead to Universal Understanding?" Uxbridge CO Fellowship.

THURSDAY, April 2—TUES., April 7
SUFFOLK: The Mount, Haverhill. Easter Youth Conf. "Peace—Attempting the Impossible." Details from FoR, 38 Gordon Square, W.C.1.

THURSDAY, March 26
HAMPSTEAD: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Bush Rd. Ted Redhead. J.P. FoR.

FRIDAY, March 27
W. C. 1: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Dr. A. D. Belden, Kings Cross Mission, and Lt.-Col. N. Read. Secretary of the No Conscription Friends. Woolwich Peace Council.

FRIDAY, March 27
HARROW: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Metcalf, FoR.

FRIDAY, March 27
W. C. 1: 8 p.m. Friends' Mtg. Ho. Canon C. E. Raven. Christian Peacemaking in the Present.

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How an Air Commodore MP sees the next war ARMY AND NAVY USELESS

IN the Debate on the Air Estimates, I heard Air Commodore Harvey (Con., Macclesfield) say many things which will be familiar to readers of Peace News.

Air Commodore Harvey is a director of Handley Page Ltd. which produces bomber planes. He has always been in favour of a strong air force.

He was disappointed with "the meat" in the introductory speech of the Parliamentary Secretary for Air.

"Britain flat in six hours"

He wanted to know "if sufficient money was being spent."

The Air Ministry was only asking for nearly £500,000,000. One wonders what the bill would be like if Air Commodore Harvey had his way.

What would happen if war comes? He said:

"We should not receive a little note that they proposed to bomb London. The first thing that would happen would be enemy jet bombers, four-engine bombers, not coming direct from Denmark, but round the South of Norway and down through Scotland bombing the cities of Britain and in six hours Britain would be flattened. Let us make no mistake about that."

A war of six hours? Is this the sort of war we are preparing for? What relevance have the hundreds and millions we are spending on the Navy and the Air Force to this kind of war?

The Air Commodore reminded us that during the last war we shot down only six per cent or 10 per cent of the enemy bombers.

"There will be no warning next time. The number of bombers which must be destroyed will have to be 80 or 90 per cent, and that must be done before they reach the shores of Britain."

Cost of bombers astronomical

In a letter to The Times last January, Air Marshall Sir Philip Joubert said that we had no night fighters capable of stopping jet bombers and asked if we were not spending too much on the new bombers whose cost was astronomical.

Air Commodore Harvey went on to tell us more comforting news:

"If we take a 20-mile circle round London and a 20-mile circle round Manchester, we find that there are more people living in the Manchester area than around London. These two areas, coupled with six seaports, if attacked by atom bombs would be in chaos and Britain would be virtually finished."

How then can we be prepared for such a war and how could the RAF defend us?

Air Commodore Harvey had no very clear answer to this except to speed up our own production of bombers and put on two or three more shifts in order to get more bombers and fighters; as if the Russians could not put on more shifts too.

Children's war pictures stopped in Austria

As a result of a press campaign by the Austrian section of the War Resisters' International, at least one Austrian firm has given up the practice of giving away with its products war-like pictures for children to collect.

A representative of the firm said that so many letters had been received protesting against the practice, that his firm were replacing the war pictures with harmless ones.

Several members of this group have taken part in a discussion on Conscientious Objection broadcast on Vienna radio stations. After the broadcast, they were approached by the Secretary of the Women's Emergency Service to continue the discussion at further special meetings.

An advice Bureau for War Resisters has also been opened in Vienna.

**WIGMORE HALL, London, W.1.
WED., MARCH 25, at 7.30 p.m.**

PIANOFORTE RECITAL

to celebrate the 60th Anniversary of his first London Recital in the same hall on March 25, 1903

by

FRANK MERRICK

The entire proceeds will be given to the Incorporated Society of Musicians' Benevolent Fund.

Tickets: 2s., 1s., 1s., 7s. 6d., 3s. 6d.,
from Hall (Welbeck 2141), usual Agents, and

**IMPERIAL CONCERT AGENCY,
20, Kingly Street, W.1. (REGent 1140)**

DEBATE

8 p.m., TUESDAY, MARCH 24

LIBERAL HALL, CLARENCE ROAD,
Nr. SOUTHEND G.P.O.

"That pacifism is not the practical alternative to war."

Chairman: Mr. C. W. HARVEY

A. W. L. Turner, The Socialist Party of Great Britain; Harold Darling, Peace Pledge Union

"RATTLING THE SABRE"

We must create forces which can play a real part as a deterrent against aggression. . . Continuous progress has been made. Every man in uniform has been made to feel that he has to fight to the death for the sake of his native land. . . By making arms for others in addition to those we make for ourselves we are enabled to build up a war potential substantially greater than we could otherwise achieve.

—Mr. Winston Churchill. Defence Debate, March 5, 1953.

Mr. Malenkov . . . again asserted the Soviet Government's desire for peace. At the same time he stressed the Government's intention to strengthen the Soviet State. . .

—Daily Telegraph, March 16, 1953.

"A squadron of Sabres has been ordered to Germany."

—Daily Telegraph, March 14, 1953.

MR. CHURCHILL made his speech on strengthening the armed forces and the armaments of this country before the world knew of Stalin's death, but speculation was already ripe.

What now about peace? Had the Dictator, who for so long had been looked upon as the arch-offender in the "cold war," really been, after all, the man who had held off his countrymen from a "hot war"? Would his successor, or successors, find a means to unify rebellious citizens within the "iron" walls, by making common cause against the enemy without?

These questions were still unanswered when a British bomber flying (mistakenly it is to be assumed) into the Russian Zone was shot down.

Instantly there seemed to be an attempt on the part of British spokesmen and newspapers to suggest that this was a deliberate act of "brutal aggression" by Russia, and that perhaps the new Dictator, as had been feared, intended to break out from a "cold war" into a "hot war."

It is seldom recognised by partisans of either side that "nerves" are not confined to one set of nations alone. The death of a dictator is not at all the same as the death of a king, or Prime Minister, in this country.

The fears of those in power in Russia must be infinitely greater than the fears of any British Government in a similar position. They are aware of the deadly hatred and terror of Communism in capitalist countries. They know the preparations that are being made to "contain" Communism by force; they have only to read Mr. Churchill's and Mr. Attlee's speeches, let alone those of Mr. Eisenhower and General MacArthur.

If we were not training young men to fight to the death for their native land at all, let alone right on the frontiers of "enemy" territory where other men are training for the same reasons, there would not be such incidents, any of which could set off the explosion which might end in the destruction of Communism, but the human race itself.

Playing with fire and rattling sabres dangerous games; "containing" Communism will never be achieved by military force but only by the moral strength which will show the world that when we "peace" we mean peace.

Take the sabre out of its sheath and throw it down; then the world will know that we have the courage of our convictions that it is not ourselves who are in the wrong, and that we intend to make peace.

CONSCRIPTION

has been in force in this country for fourteen years.

Throughout that time, there has been an organisation to advise and help those resisting conscription.

Directly, or indirectly, that organisation has benefited every CO in the country.

That means you, or your son, or your people's sons.

If you need help now, it is available, not, will you enable it to help those who send your contribution to: The Treasury.

The CENTRAL BOARD FOR CONSCIENTIOUS OBJECTORS
6 Endsleigh Street, London, W.C.1

TRIBUNE

Socialist — Independent — Fearless

A SPECIAL "action-group" has been formed among Munich members of the War Resisters' International. This group will go into action on special occasions (the showing of war films, etc.) at a moment's notice. They have a member's car at their disposal, and special leaflets are being printed.

The group has also initiated a campaign against the ratification of the Contractual Agreement. Six hundred posters have been put up, and letters are to be written to the members of the Bonn Bundestag who are known to have voted in favour of the agreement at the second reading of the Bill.

André Eisele, who has already served four terms of imprisonment, has again been summoned before the Military Tribunal at Metz, France.

The new weekly, Fourpenny Tribune, brings you open discussion of the issues facing the Labour Movement, factual accounts of the impact of the Tory Government on ordinary people and the real facts about what is happening abroad. The Editorial Board are Jennie Lee, Michael Foot, Ian Mikardo and J. P. W. Mallalieu. Help to keep this independent socialist newspaper going, by ordering now.

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